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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMANITIES

STAFF AND SEMINARS

1995

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Images of Other in Edo-Period Popular Culture
Victor H. MAIR, Visiting Professor (July 1995–January 1996), Ph. D. (Harvard Univ.),
Studies on Medieval Vernacular Sinitic

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Seminars

Department of Japanese Studies

THE STRUCTURAL INTERCONNECTIONS OF THE MODERN EAST ASIAN NATIONS

(coordinated by Associate Professor YAMAMURO, S., April 1992–March 1996)

The aim of this joint research is to comprehend the interrelations of the modern East Asian nations. We will also consider Japanese connections with other nations and examine each topic from various angles, taking into account economic, legal, political and literary factors.

We shall try to identify certain unifying themes in this study and also put forward some ideas about the impact, or lack thereof, of Japanese interracial efforts in East Asia before the Second World War.

INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIAL GROUPS AT A HISTORICAL TURNING POINT

(coordinated by Professor SASAKI, S., April 1992–March 1996)

We will examine the lives of those who went through the period of the Meiji Restoration: nobles, vassals, voluntary warriors, bourgeois, peasants, etc., in order to analyse the history of their activities.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF “GREATER EAST ASIA CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE”

(coordinated by Professor YAMAMOTO, Y., April 1993–March 1997)

Following the earlier seminar “The Study of ‘Manchukuo’”, we start the new seminar on the *Dai-Toa Kyo-eiken*. As the first stage, the focus is set on the economic aspects of this field. We have a small but intensive meeting every two weeks on Wednesday afternoon.

NINETEENTH CENTURY JAPAN AS A FIELD OF CONTACT WITH FOREIGN LANGUAGES

(coordinated by Instructor SAITO, M., April 1994–March 1997)

In the nineteenth century, a large quantity of work, the sphere of which ranged from science to literature, was translated from different foreign languages into Japanese. These translations had a great influence upon not merely politics, economy, society and thought but also language in Japan. The aim of this seminar is to analyze various aspects of such contact with foreign languages, especially in relation to the formation of modern Japanese.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF INTERMEDIARIES IN EAST ASIAN DAILY LIVES

(coordinated by Visiting Professor MIURA, K., April 1994–March 1997)

The objective of this study is to understand the complexity as well as the common nature of various societies in East Asia since early modern times by focusing our interest on durable phenomena that act as intermediaries between the components of the societies.

During the first year, tentative comparative studies will be carried out to select a few significant intermediaries from among a number of possible subjects, not only persons such as spirit-media, performers, match-makers, literates, etc., but also things such as amulets, scriptures, or certain animals or plants. After this preliminary stage, detailed interdisciplinary case-analyses will be conducted during the second year.

Department of Oriental Studies

A STUDY ON ART OF THE TANG AND SONG DYNASTIES

(coordinated by Professor SOFUKAWA, H., April 1995–March 2000)

The art of Tang was at the height of its prosperity at the time of High-Tang. The international free moulding which was liberated from the political suppression and moral standard was characteristic of this period. However, this splendid art of High-Tang changed around the middle of the eighth century. The plump figure style lost its balance, green and blue painting changed to monochromatic ink painting, and paradise world changed to realistic nature world. At last, the landscape painting and flower and bird painting of the Song dynasty came into the world. The purpose of this research is to follow the change of art from Sui, Former-Tang to High-Tang and to consider significance of the remarkable change from High-Tang to Late-Tang and the Song dynasty. We will analyze these arts according to three fields, 1) vast archaeological materials unearthed since the Communist Revolution, 2) Buddhist grotto temples such as Rongmen and Tianrongshan, 3) the aesthetic theory in painting and calligraphy.

CENTRAL ASIA AND THE SOUTH ASIAN SUBCONTINENT BETWEEN THE
FOURTH AND THE EIGHTH CENTURIES (III): A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
APPROACH TO *FAXIAN ZHUAN*, OR NARRATIVES OF FAXIAN'S TRAVELS
(coordinated by Professor KUWAYAMA, Sh., April 1991–March 1996)

The project thus entitled, started in April 1983, has aimed for fresh interpretations of Chinese and Indian Buddhist pilgrims' accounts on Buddhist lives, institutions, history, and geography in each area of Central Asia and the South Asian subcontinent in the light of most recent information given in the fields such as art, archaeology, linguistics, history, and religion. The first two programs between 1983 and 1991, dealing with the first five chapters of Xuanzang's extensive biography and *Huichao's Account of Travels in the Five Indic Regions*, has resulted in publishing an annotated translation of the latter in 1992, now available at the Institute, while as to the third and latest program to make a reliable Japanese version of the original Chinese text of *Faxian zhuan* a dozen specialists of various fields have since April 1991 had discussions at the bi-weekly meeting on Monday afternoon mainly in search of the pertinent interpretation in a more historical context of specific Chinese characters and phrases which may presuppose local languages.

STUDY ON THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY IN CHINA
(coordinated by Professor TANAKA, T., April 1991–March 1996)

The aim of this weekly seminar is to clarify the characteristics of the several fields of traditional technology in China, in particular the fields related to everyday life and the domestic sciences. Our immediate plans are to read and give the Japanese translation of two different kinds of texts concerning agriculture and horticulture: the main text of general interest is *Neng Shu (Agricultural Treatise)* written by Wang Zhen in 1313 of the Yuan Dynasty; the subsidiary one of more specific interest is *Zhejiang Lu (Collected Biographies of Mastercraftsmen)* edited by Liang Qi-Xiong in 1993. As well as the philological works, we also plan for members to give lectures on various subjects concerning the history of technology in China.

MATERIAL CULTURE OF MEDIEVAL CHINA
(coordinated by Associate Professor ASAHARA, T., April 1991–March 1996)

This seminar covers the period from the third century B.C. to the tenth century A.D., and we plan to conduct it over five years. We will examine both transmitted and newly excavated materials, including inscriptions, manuscripts, paintings, and other artifacts. In addition to examining the items themselves, we will use archaeological reports.

In this seminar, our interests are not exclusively in political or socio-economic history, but are of a broader nature. We seek to understand the culture of medieval China, paying attention to Buddhism and Daoism along with artistic and scientific developments.

LAW AND SOCIETY IN EARLY MODERN CHINA

(coordinated by Professor UMEHARA, K., April 1991–March 1996)

With the founding of the Song Dynasty in the latter half of the tenth century, and the ensuing establishment of a new national structure, outstanding changes in the legal system occurred. Although the Tang law code was still observed in essence, the promulgation of new regulations concerning both central and local government, as well as of new edicts, resulted in a new system different from its predecessors. In this session we will read the basic text concerning the Song law, the *Qingyuan tiaofa shilei* and the recently discovered Ming edition of the *Qingmingji* while considering various problems concerning the legal system in China during the Song and later periods.

RESEARCH INTO THE DAOISM OF THE SIX DYNASTIES II

(coordinated by Professor YOSHIKAWA, T., April 1991–March 1996)

The *Zhengao* by Tao Hongjing of the Liang dynasty is a compilation dealing with the various divinities of Daoism. In our research seminar we propose to undertake a complete translation and annotation of the *Zhengao*, thereby illuminating the situation of Daoism in the Six Dynasties period.

RESEARCH INTO THE HISTORY OF CHINESE PHONOLOGY

(coordinated by Professor TAKATA, T., April 1993–March 1998)

Although source materials exist in rich abundance for the Chinese phonology in the Ming and Qing times, due attention has not been given to them until now. A wide-ranging research for this period is indispensable in order to review systematically the development of mandarin dialects. In this research seminar, therefore, we aim chiefly to obtain as much materials as possible and make clear the characteristic of each through careful reading of the prefaces and postfaces as well as scientific analysis of the contents.

A STUDY OF LIANG QICHAO (1873–1929)

(coordinated by Professor HAZAMA, N., April 1993–March 1996)

Liang Qichao played a key-role in the introduction and reception of Western modern culture in China. Besides his most important contribution to political thought, he was a major innovator in the field of history, literature and the arts as well, where among his numerous achievements the “new literary form” (*xin wenti*) he created, meaning the complete reform of the old classical style of writing, stands as a landmark. His protean activity laid the ground for the modern development of Chinese culture in many fields. Much of his knowledge about Western thought and civilization was gained during the years he spent in Japan as a political exile, from the end of 1898 to 1912. Thus was also the time when he rose to prominence as a leading thinker among his contemporaries. The research investigates the various aspects of Liang Qichao's thought and scholarly interests, with special attention to elucidating Japanese influence upon his knowledge and reception of the West and to analysing its significance as regards the cultural history of modern China.

URBAN AND RURAL SOCIETY IN MODERN CHINA
(coordinated by Professor MORI, T., April 1993–March 1998)

In Kuomintang-Communist Wars, Mao Tse-tung deduced a famous formula of Chinese Revolution, saying “Encircle the cities from the rural areas and then capture them.” After “liberation” of 1949, Communist China made a very strict distinction of household register between urban and rural residents with the view of preventing a cityward drifting of population. Such examples as these suggest to us the fact that the relation between urban and rural society is one of the key concepts for understanding the social structure of modern China. This research project aims to clarify the urban-rural relationship from various angles of politics, economics, sociology and the like.

THE ‘LI’ SYSTEMS AND ITS THOUGHT IN CHINA’S PAST
(coordinated by Professor KOMINAMI, I., April 1994–March 1999)

In the past society of China, the ‘li’ systems had a large influence, not only on official life, but also on the everyday life of the general public. Our study mainly focuses upon various aspects of the ‘li’ systems; when the systems emerged in Chinese civilization, and how they transformed themselves through the current of times. For the purpose of this research, we take up the text of ‘Zhouli’, and shed light on aspects of ‘li’ through close examination of the text.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY IN THE LATER HALF OF THE
NORTHERN DYNASTIES
(coordinated by Professor ARAMAKI, N., April 1994–March 1998)

The seminar designated above is intended to edit, annotate and study some important Buddhist texts of the Northern Dynasties period preserved in the Tunhuang manuscripts, but so far largely neglected by Buddhist scholars. The philosophical texts entitled ‘…章’ will first be selected in order to show how Buddhist philosophies and practices in the Sui-and-Tang period have developed from the tradition of the special type of philosophical discussion on the theses — “章” — which has originally been based upon Buddhist *sūtras* and *śāstras*, but become more and more independent of them finally to be entirely free of them as in Zen dialogue.

STUDY OF THE TRADITIONAL METHODS OF BOOK CATALOGING IN CHINA
(coordinated by Associate Professor KATSUMURA, T., April 1994–March 1999)

The study of cataloging Chinese books, has traditionally been considered as a study of learning itself, not as a simple technique of the compilation of catalogues. Fruitful discussions are expected for editing the forthcoming catalogues of Chinese books collected in the Institute Library.

The study has the object to informatize and analyze the books, documents and other archives in China, with the help of information from science technology.

Department of Occidental Studies

FACETS OF CULTURAL HISTORY OF CLASSICAL INDIA: ASPECTS OF ANCIENT INDIAN KINGSHIP

(coordinated by Professor IKARI, Y., April 1995–March 1998)

Interrelationship between the political power and the religious authority has been a key concept in understanding characteristic features of various cultures and civilizations of the world. In ancient India, this problem is typically represented by the complicated interactions between the kingship and the brahman intellectuals who have monopolized the orthodox religious traditions. In this joint seminar, we shall specially focus our attention on the interrelations between the two genres of literatures, *i.e.* the “Dharma” literatures (*dharmasūtras* and *dharmasāstras*) which grew among the milieu of Vedic ritual traditions and the “Artha” literatures (genre of *Rājānīti* traditions including *Arthasāstra*) which developed around the king and his court. In close cooperation of scholars of Indology from various fields, our seminar try to investigate how these two genres of literatures had reciprocally influenced and enriched their own respective traditions. As a starting point, we take up the *Rājadharmā* section of *Mahābhārata* (XII.1–128), one of the early and important sources on our topic and aim for fresh interpretations on the early phases of interaction between the power and religious authority in ancient India.

COMMUNICATION IN SOCIAL HISTORY

(Coordinated by Prof. MAEKAWA, K., April 1995–March 1998)

This is a comparative study of communication in the periods before the invention of the electric communication media. We focus on the social context in which the communication media were used, rather than the history of technological innovations in the system of communication. Communication by means of writings is only one of the topics to be studied here. It is exemplified that oral and nonverbal messages of a preacher would have made as much serious influence on the layman as his writings. The well-known impact which Gutenberg’s invention of typographic printing gave to modern Europe is also studied here. However, we rather put an emphasis on the fact that other kinds of communication media continued to be in use in Europe even after the invention.

A STUDY OF SYMBOLISM

(coordinated by Professor USAMI, H., April 1993–March 1997)

To begin with, the research group will consider what matters symbolism has brought, taking European (mainly French) literary texts as the chief objects of the study. At the same time, we will also take account of its relationship with other arts (music, fine arts, drama, etc.); the influence of social and political changes on it; a context in the history of ideas; and viewpoint for a comparison with non-European countries such as China, Japan, etc. Then, examining how these matters developed afterwards, we hope especially to observe the avant-garde art in the early 20th century as a form of development, a fruit, or a metamorphosis, of symbolism. Therefore, the time, the mid-19th century through the

1920's, shall be covered in this study.

NATURALISTIC APPROACHES TOWARDS HUMAN COMMUNICATION, II

(coordinated by Professor TANI, Y., April 1994–March 1997)

Social relationships are organized and reproduced by means of mutual communication in ordinary life. Especially after human acquisition of linguistic ability, even non-verbal representations on which we had previously depended must have been transformed by usage. Not only for the general anthropologist but also for the ethnographer who reconstructs sociocultural processes on the basis of on-going social interactional data, it is crucial to understand how we are communicating and to be well equipped with appropriate conceptual tools. Specialists in the fields of primatology, linguistics, social-cultural anthropology, sociology and philosophy met in this seminar in order to analyse audio-visual materials and to elaborate our conceptual framework.

THE ORGANIZATION OF SCIENCE AFTER THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY

(coordinated by Professor SAKAGAMI, T., April 1994–March 1998)

This project is devoted to conducting interdisciplinary studies on problems and concepts connected with the organization of science after the mid-19th century. Major topics under consideration include: the specialization and institutionalization of natural, social and human sciences; the transformation of academic communities; and the complex cross-influence between the organization of science and the development of modern society. Particular attention will be paid to the emergence of research institutes in Europe and the United States, as well as in Japan. This project also intends to complement the results achieved in the preceeding one, "Knowledge as Social Order," which focused on the social, political and cultural impact of science in Europe and the United States during the age of the French Revolution. Sessions will be held fortnightly on Fridays.

CULTURAL CONSTRUCTION OF SUBJECT-SELF

(coordinated by Associate Professor TANAKA, M., April 1994–March 1997)

This three-year-long project aims to understand a concept of subject and other related concepts like individual, self, agency, personhood etc. both within the context of cultural settings and within theoretical frameworks. Each member is expected to present data based on his or her fieldwork for contributing to comparative analyses, and for examining the above mentioned concepts derived from Western academic culture.